

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of the claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1-2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently amended) ~~[[A]] The fatty acid ester mixture of claim 5 pentaerythritol, wherein the fatty acid is a mixture containing from about 40% to about 50% by weight of a C₁₆ fatty acid and from about 45% to about 55% by weight of a C₁₈ fatty acid, and wherein said ester mixture contains less than 0.3% by weight of esters containing C₁₇ fatty acid acyl groups, and has a melting point of at least 30°C, wherein said fatty acid ester mixture of pentaerythritol is useful as a wax component in cosmetic and/or pharmaceutical compositions.~~

4. (Canceled)

5. (Currently amended) A fatty acid ester mixture of pentaerythritol, wherein the fatty acid has 6 to 22 carbon atoms, and wherein said ester mixture contains less than 0.3% by weight of esters containing C₁₇ fatty acid acyl groups, and has a melting point of at least 30°C, with a percentage content of (a) ~~from~~ about 12% to about 19% by weight monoesters, (b) ~~from~~ about 25% to about 35% by weight diesters, (c) ~~from~~ about 30% to about 40% by weight triesters, and (d) ~~from about 6 to about 11% by weight~~ tetraesters, wherein said fatty acid ester mixture of pentaerythritol is ~~useful~~ incorporated as a wax component in a cosmetic and/or pharmaceutical composition[[s]].

6-10. (Canceled)

11. (Currently amended) A cosmetic and/or pharmaceutical composition comprising ~~[[a]] the wax ester mixture of claim 5 formed by esterification of pentaerythritol with one or more fatty acids selected from the group consisting of C₆₋₂₂ fatty acids and combinations thereof, wherein said wax ester mixture contains less than 0.3% by weight of esters containing C₁₇ fatty acid acyl groups, and has a melting point of at least 30°C.~~

12. (Canceled)

13. (Currently amended) The composition according to Claim 11, wherein said C₆₋₂₂ fatty acid is present as a mixture and comprises ~~from~~ about 40% to about 50% by weight of a C₁₆ fatty acid and ~~from~~ about 45% to about 55% by weight of a C₁₈ fatty acid.

14. (Currently amended) The cosmetic composition according to Claim 11, wherein said wax ester mixture is present in a quantity of ~~from~~ about 0.1% to about 20% by weight.

15. (Previously presented) The cosmetic composition according to Claim 11, further comprising an additional wax component.

16. (Previously presented) The cosmetic composition according to Claim 15, wherein said wax component is selected from the group consisting of C₁₂₋₂₄ fatty alcohols, C₁₂₋₂₄ partial glycerides and mixtures thereof.

17. (Previously Presented) The cosmetic composition according to Claim 11, further comprising at least one nonionic surfactant.

18. (Currently amended) The cosmetic composition according to Claim 17, wherein said nonionic surfactant is selected from the group consisting of alkyl oligoglycosides, ~~and alkenyl oligoglycosides~~ and mixtures thereof.

19. (Previously Presented) The cosmetic composition according to Claim 11, further comprising at least one oil component which is liquid at 25°C.

20. (Currently amended) The cosmetic composition according to Claim 11, comprising:

- (a) ~~from~~ about 0.1% to about 10% by weight of said wax ester mixture;
- (b) ~~from~~ about 1% to about 25% by weight of at least one oil component which is liquid at 25°C;
- (c) ~~from~~ about 0.1% to about 5% by weight of a wax component selected from the group consisting of C₁₂₋₂₄ fatty alcohols, C₁₂₋₁₄ partial glycerides, and mixtures thereof;
- (d) ~~from~~ about 0.5% to about 10% by weight of a C₈₋₂₄ alkyl oligoglucoside; and
- (e) water.

21. (Currently amended) ~~[[A]] The fatty acid ester mixture of claim 5 pentaerythritol, wherein the fatty acid contains 6 to 22 carbon atoms and comprises unbranched fatty acids, and wherein said ester mixture contains less than 0.3% by weight of esters containing C₁₇ fatty acid acyl groups, and has a melting point of at least 30°C, wherein said fatty acid ester mixture of pentaerythritol is useful as a wax component in cosmetic and/or pharmaceutical compositions.~~

22. (Canceled)

23. (Previously presented) The fatty acid ester mixture of claim 5 wherein said fatty acid comprises a mixture of C₆-C₂₂ fatty acids.

24. (Previously presented) The fatty acid ester mixture of claim 21 wherein said fatty acid comprises a mixture of C₆-C₂₂ fatty acids.